

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF OLIGORUS FROM QUEENSLAND.

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Plate IX.

OLIGORUS TERRÆ-REGINÆ, *sp. nov.*

D. 11/15. P. 18. A. 3/8.

The head compressed and broad in front, its length equal to the extent of the spinous dorsal, from the base of first to the end of the last spine; and one-third of the total length without the caudal. The height of the body is contained three and two-thirds in the total length (s. e.). The diameter of the eye is one-tenth of the length of the head, and is situated close to the front, being only one-fifth of its diameter from the margin of the forehead. Nostrils large, close to the eye. A strong blunt spine on the point or hinder angle of the operculum, reaching to beyond the base of the pectorals, another flat, well-developed spine above it and a little in front of it. The hinder margin of the preoperculum rough, irregularly and coarsely serrated; the lower margin wavy and irregular, somewhat smooth. Teeth viliform (no canines) in both jaws, and on a narrow lanceolate band on either side, of the palate; none on the tongue; mouth oblique, the length of the upper jaw equal to the width across the mouth, lower jaw the longest. Scales small, narrow, oblong, strongly compressed one against the other, from 120 to 130 on the lateral line, 16-17 scales between the lateral line and the fifth dorsal spine. Scales on the head, cheeks, operculum and preoperculum. Branchiostigals seven. Pectoral and caudal fins large, rounded, spotted with blackish, the spinous portion of the dorsal, as measured above, equal to the length of the head; the first and second spine shorter than the third, the eleventh the longest; the soft dorsal is well-developed, higher than the last of the spinous portion, and extends almost to the caudal, the membrane indistinctly spotted with blackish.

The general colour is of a rich brown, shaded with purplish-brown on the back, a few indistinct (when dead) transverse almost black marks on the sides. The total length with caudal, of the type specimen is six feet; the height of the body, behind the ventrals, sixteen inches; diameter of the eye 2·2 inches; the third dorsal spine 3·4 inches, the last 4·5 inches; extent of the spinous dorsal at base 19·5 inches; the longest ray of the soft dorsal 7·2 inches; first ray 6·7 inches, the last 3·8 inches. Width of the pectoral fins 9 inches, length 11 inches; width (transverse) of the caudal 14·5 inches, length centre ray 10·5. The length of the head to the end of the spine on the operculum is 22 inches.

The size to which this species attains, exceeds that of any other known. It is found at the mouths of several of the northern rivers and inlets of the Wide Bay district in Queensland; it was found to be plentiful at the mouth of the Burrum River, about twenty miles from Maryborough, Queensland, and first brought under my notice by my brothers, who obtained many of immense size at that place in 1870. The present specimen was forwarded to me in the flesh by an unknown acquaintance, a few days ago from Brisbane, to whom I take the present opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks. It has been beautifully mounted by Mr. J. A. Thorpe, the Museum Taxidermist, and is now on exhibition in the Australian Museum.

I have compared this new species with all the Australian species previously known and also with the *Oligorus (Hectoria) gigas* of Owen, from all of which it is distinct.

My brother, Mr. J. S. Ramsay, informs me that he has caught the same species in sea-water off Frazer's Island, also at Traviston and that they ascend the Mary River into brackish water near the township, where a specimen said to weigh three cwt. was caught some time ago. In the fresh-water of the Mary River and in Tinnana Creek, one of its tributaries, Cod of apparently the same species are occasionally taken. During a recent excursion

to Frazer's Island large specimens were hooked which resisted all the efforts of two strong men to land them, and being made fast finally broke away. One fish landed about 4·5 feet long, weighed 160 pounds, and remains of another 10 feet long were found on the beach.

NOTES ON *GALEOCERDO RAYNERI*, WITH A LIST OF OTHER SHARKS
TAKEN IN PORT JACKSON.

BY E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., &c., &c.

Plate IV.

When I prepared the sketches for the plates which accompany these few remarks, I was under the impression that this was a new species of *Thalassorhinus*, but subsequently found it described under the above name, indeed the genera *Galeocerdo* and *Thalassorhinus* are almost identical. The description given in Mueller and Hénle of *Thalassorhinus platyrhynchus* almost agrees with the present species.

A large number of Sea Sharks have lately been captured in Port Jackson and among them three of the present species, which has not been previously recorded from this locality; the largest specimen I have seen, measured in the flesh 12 feet, the present specimen 11 feet 4 inches to the centre of the caudal fin. The rounded parabolic form of the head, the form of the tail and shape of the teeth, will at once distinguish this species from all others known at present in these waters.

The following are the measurements of a male taken among the shipping in Port Jackson:—Total length 11 feet 4 inches. From the outer edge of the snout to the first dorsal 3 feet 6 inches. Length of the first dorsal 14·15 inches, its width at base 11 inches. Length of pectoral 19 inches, width 11 inches; width between the eyes 16 inches, from a line between the eyes to the snout 8 inches, width between the nostrils 7 inches, a long labial fold